

has already proven successful in delivering VA medical facilities to veterans in Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Extending this program has been a priority of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON). I appreciate their leadership on this.

I am also grateful to my fellow House and Senate committee leaders—Chairman TAKANO, Chairman TESTER, and Ranking Member MORAN—for their work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 5293. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I just urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5293, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5293.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 189) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 189

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2021, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2021, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2022.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 189.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 189, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, would require the Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs to increase the rates of disability compensation for service-connected veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of veterans, effective December 1, 2021.

This bill would also increase these rates by the same percentage as the percentage by which Social Security benefits are increased, effective December 1, 2021, and require that the VA publish the increased rates in the Federal Register.

To me, the actual cost-of-living adjustment to veterans’ benefits, other-

wise known as COLA, is much more than a rate adjustment tied to inflation. In reality, it is a quality-of-life guarantee in the retirement years, especially for veterans suffering with service-connected disabilities and ailments.

It also comes with the assurance for veterans that their survivors will not see a steady decline in benefits if the economy changes and costs rise after they have passed. This guarantee is a great source of comfort for veterans as they age. I know this because they tell me this everywhere I go.

The yearly COLA increase demonstrates the appreciation from a grateful nation in recognition of the service and sacrifice of those who volunteer to wear the uniform of our country.

Participating in this gesture of gratitude is one of the most rewarding responsibilities of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. As chairman, I am honored to be leading this effort to say thank you.

I want to recognize the work of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee chair, ELAINE LURIA, and ranking member TROY NEHLS for sponsoring S. 189’s House companion, H.R. 3909, and for bringing this legislation to the floor with me today.

I am pleased that we are considering this bill early this year so veterans will not be concerned about its passage by the December 1 deadline. This is especially important to so many feeling the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wholeheartedly support S. 189, and I urge all my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 189, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021. This bill will help ensure that benefits paid to veterans who are disabled as a result of their military service do not lose value because of inflation.

S. 189 authorizes a cost-of-living increase for veterans and their families next year as long as Social Security recipients receive an increase.

Many disabled veterans and their families rely on these compensation benefits to pay their bills, such as mortgage payments and groceries. In some cases, these benefits may even be the veteran’s only income. Moreover, VA benefits are providing much-needed financial support to many veterans facing uncertainty due to this pandemic.

We must pass this bill and ensure that compensation benefits for our disabled veterans keep pace with rising costs.

I would like to thank Senator THUNE for introducing this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support S. 189.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), my good friend and the chair of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021. Simply put, this is a well-deserved and necessary pay raise for our disabled veterans.

I am proud to represent a district with eight major military installations, including Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval station in the world.

□ 1645

Ours is a community where one in five people is either active duty servicemembers, veterans, or a military family member.

Our veterans, no matter where they were deployed or in what capacity they served, swore an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. They risked their lives thousands of miles away to keep America safe. And as a 20-year Navy veteran myself, I am proud to support this bill to ensure that every veteran can continue to use their benefits they earned in service to our country.

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, the Senate companion to my House bill, H.R. 3909, enhances benefits for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses, and compensation to children. It increases the same way that Social Security benefits increase to meet the rising cost of living.

We have seen costs for disability care, clothing, and childcare increase over the years, and it is vital that we continue to provide benefits that actually meet the demands our veterans face every day.

Providing quality benefits to our veterans and their dependents can change lives, and Congress must honor the commitment to those American heroes who served.

Again, I urge swift passage of S. 189 so that we can responsibly assist our Nation's veterans once again.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 189, The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 189.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN W. MOSLEY VA CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4172) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Aurora, Colorado, as the "Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley VA Clinic."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4172

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, AURORA, COLORADO.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) John Mosley was born on June 21, 1921, in Denver, Colorado.

(2) In 1945, John Mosley married Edna Mosley.

(3) During World War II, he joined the famed Tuskegee Airmen and trained as a bomber pilot, serving as one of the first African Americans in that role. He earned the flight qualification of Command Pilot during his service in the United States Air Force. The brave service of the Tuskegee Airmen helped pave the way for integration of the armed services. Edna Mosley worked in the defense industry during the war.

(4) Upon their return to Colorado, Edna Mosley joined John as a tireless community activist and organizer. Among her many achievements, Edna was elected to three terms as Aurora's first African-American City Council Woman. While on the Council, Mrs. Mosley also served on the Board of Directors of the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, the entity which provided the vision for the development of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

(5) After a brief break from military service, John Mosley served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was an operations officer in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

(6) John Mosley retired in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel.

(7) In 2007, Lieutenant Colonel Mosley and the original Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush.

(8) John and Edna Mosley continued to serve their community long after their retirements, advocating for racial equality, women's rights, veterans' affairs, housing, and education.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic to be located in Aurora, Colorado, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley Clinic".

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference to such clinic in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 4172.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life of John W. Mosley, a Denver native who began his legendary service to our Nation in the United States Army Air Corps as a World War II Tuskegee Airman, one of our Nation's first Black military aviators.

This bill, H.R. 4172, will name the Department of Veterans Affairs new community-based outpatient clinic in Aurora, Colorado, as the Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley VA Clinic. I thank my colleague, Representative JASON CROW, a former Army Ranger, for championing this effort.

To say that Lieutenant Colonel Mosley led a remarkable life would be an understatement. Growing up in a segregated neighborhood in Denver, he became valedictorian of his high school class. In 1939, Lieutenant Colonel Mosley became a National Merit Scholar and was one of the first Black students to attend Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, which is now Colorado State University. Mosley was the school's first Black varsity football player and served as vice president of his college class as a junior and as a senior.

At the start of the Second World War, Mosley dreamed of serving his country as a pilot. After being denied the opportunity to join the ROTC program in college, Lieutenant Colonel Mosley paid for his own flight physical and started taking flying lessons.

And even after the Army Air Corps established the Tuskegee Airmen program in June 1941, Mosley was not initially drafted to join them.

Mosley was instead sent to an artillery unit at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Mosley protested, writing letters to Members of Congress and the President until he was finally accepted into the Tuskegee unit.

Together, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 missions over North Africa and Europe during World War II. Lieutenant Colonel Mosley later served as a pilot in the Berlin Airlift, delivering loads of supplies to the Soviet-blockaded sectors of the city.

Upon Lieutenant Colonel Mosley's death in 2015 at the age of 93, his son, Eric, told the Denver Post that Lieutenant Colonel Mosley always said that "he had to fight in order to fight. . . . He had to struggle to be able to fight for his country."